

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:30 PM

Attendance: Jesse Rosenbaum – Chair, Susan Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Michael Sidell, Martha Taylor also present James Romanovsky-NYSDOT, Rasmin Khanra-Hardesty and Hanover, Michael Liona- Hardesty and Hanover, Daniel Wan-Hardesty and Hanover, Richard Gipetti-NYCDOT Chris Brunson-NYCDOT, Anup Ramnauth Treasurer CB#13 (V-W), Richard L. Housel (V-P)

I. NYSDOT PRESENTATION

- A. Update on Kew Gardens Interchange Construction Project Contract #28 by James Romanovsky, Structure Supervisor and Michael Liona (NYS-DOT. Scope of project Van Wyck Expressway: Jewel Avenue to Jamaica Avenue , GCP: Under Van Wyck Expressway, Jackie Robinson Parkway: Under Van Wyck Expressway, Union Turnpike: Under Van Wyck Expressway
1. Contract 1 Construction to be completed by December 2016.
 2. Phase 2A substantially done; should be completed in the next few months.
 3. Phase 2B Contract bids are going out in April. Construction for about 4 year starting on July 16, 2016 :
 - a. Replace SB Van Wyck Expressway Viaduct (2 lanes to 3 lanes)
 - b. Replace SB Van Wyck Expressway Ramp to Union Turnpike
 - c. Partially replace SB Van Wyck Expressway connection to WB Jackie Robinson Parkway.
 - d. SB Van Wyck Expressway mainline approach improvements
 - e. Restoration and realignment.

Hardcopy PowerPoint presentation available in CB#8 office. (See item II-B)

A QUESTION WAS RAISED IN REGARDS TO THE GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY WET PAVEMENT BENEATH THE WESTBOUND TRANSIT BRIDGE BETWEEN UNION TURNPIKE AND JEWEL AVENUE. THE LOCATION WAS INSPECTED. THIS LOCATION IS ADJACENT TO WILLOW LAKE. ALTHOUGH THE LOCATION WAS DREDGED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THERE HAS BEEN A CURRENT ACCUMULATION OF SILT. PERMITS AND COORDINATION WITH FLUSHING MEADOW PARK ARE REQUIRED AND WILL TAKE SOME MONTHS TO SECURE. THE OTHER LOCATION WAS THE NORTH BOUND VAN WYCK EXPRESSWAY TO THE WESTBOUND GCP. IT WAS FOUND TO BE DRY AND REQUIRES NO ACTION AT THIS TIME.

- B. Hillside Avenue Safety Improvement Presentation-Richard Gippetti, Chris Brunson (NYC-DOT). Scope of project Hillside Avenue 1.4 miles from Sutphin Boulevard to 179th Street. City records show 568 injury crashes along this corridor from 2010-2014 with 35 killed or severely injured (201 pedestrians, 12 bicyclists, 355 in vehicles).
1. Center median (Pedestrian Safety Island) to be installed along this route to provide an island of refuge for individuals who cannot cross the street in one light cycle.
 - a. Study shows this reduces pedestrian crashes by 46%.
 - b. Locations for median Sutphin Boulevard, 161st Street (2), 170th Street 172nd Street, 179th Place. (2).
 2. Hardened Centerline where left turn lane must remain undisturbed. Bollards will be installed in the following locations to deter pedestrians from crossing here.
 - a. 150th Street, Parsons Boulevard, Merrick Boulevard/166th Street, 178th Street.
 3. Change angle for motorists making left turns to improve pedestrian crossing safety.
 - a. Study shows this reduces vehicle crashes by 39%.

Letter of support for the project was approved at sent NYCDOT February 2015. Hardcopy PowerPoint presentation available in CB#8 office.

- C. James Gallagher, Jr., member CB8 report on 188th Street traffic circle modification. Preliminary walk through to improve pedestrian and motorist safety was proposed by Assemblywoman Nily Rozic. CB#8 was represented by James Gallagher Jr. and Maria DeInnocentiis. A detailed proposal is expected by end of summer 2016. Improvement suggestions to be explored include Daylighting, added street markings and additional traffic signals. Also present for the meeting was Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Nicole Garcia Queens DOT Commissioner and her assistant Richard Gippetti.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Downtown Jamaica Transportation Study (conducted September, 2015) – boundaries: North: Union Tpk., South: Linden Blvd, East: 193rd Street/Farmers Blvd, West: 130th Street. The Study examines the traffic and transportation issues such as: congestion and parking; make recommendations to address community concerns and safety to relieve congestion. Study is in response to development pressures, increased congestion. Results of study are available in CB8 office.
- B. NYSDOT – has developed a final design for the total replacement of Southbound Van Wyck Expwy. viaduct (BIN 1055750). Total replacement of the exit ramp westbound Union Turnpike to Jackie Robinson Pkwy. The project will improve operational improvement and address structural deficiencies. The project will extend along the southbound Van Wyck from 72nd Avenue to Hoover Avenue. Construction will be completed in stages while keeping all travel lanes open. Expected completion time is approximately 4 years (See I-A).

- C. State Senator Tony Avella has obtained \$500,000 to conduct a comprehensive bus study for the 11th District. MTA analyzed 39 bus routes covering an area of 31 square miles in Northeastern Queens (Van Wyck: west; Hillside Avenue: South; Nassau County border: East). Northeast Queens' bus lines were found to be operating more reliably than other boroughs. Most important development is to create a (limited-zone) bus route that will cater to the needs of Queens' residents. Q12 & Q88 have been selected to take part in this pilot program.
- D. MTA – changes to weekday service to the QM1 & QM5 bus routes started January 2016:
 - 1. All mid-day/weekday service to 188th Street & 64th Avenue will be provided by QM5 and discontinued by QM1.
 - 2. QM1 service will remain unchanged during rush hours.
- E. MTA - Made 96 bus schedule changes on 74 routes effective April 2016: 53 reflect reduction in service; 28 represent increase in service; the remaining 15 reflect changes in running time. These changes will save approx \$6,000,000 annually and will be incorporated in the 2016 operating budget. Effected Queens' bus routes include: Q16, Q36, Q46, Q48, Q55, Q56, Q58, Q83, & Q88. Specific changes are filed in CB8 office.
- F. MTA - Span changes for Q30, Queensborough Community College branch will be implemented April, 2016. This line provides service from downtown Jamaica, servicing Little Neck, Bayside. NYC Transit plans to extend hours of operation by 5 hours from 6 p.m. to 11p.m. Public hearing to be held February 26th at QCC.
- G. Area Chair Dr. Allen Bennett is opposed to DOT proposal for “No left turn” from 63rd Avenue onto Main St. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IS OPPOSED TO THIS CONCEPT; OTHER OPTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED INCLUDING LENGTHENING OR CHANGING THE TRAFFIC LIGHT TIMING.**
- H. DOT – Request from City Councilman Barry Grodenchik on behalf of constituent for additional “School Zone” signs. PS 205Q, 75-25 Bell Blvd. & St Francis HS, 61-00 Francis Lewis Blvd. **APPROVED FOR ST. FRANCIS H.S.; ALTHOUGH, PS 205 IS NOT IN CB#8 IT IS RECOMMENDED AT THIS LOCATION TO IMPROVE STUDENT SAFETY.**

III. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS REQUESTS

- A. DOT – Proposed one-way conversion of 161st Street (Southbound) & 162nd Street (Northbound) between Goethals Avenue & Union Turnpike. APPROVED by DOT. Survey of affected residents to be returned by 2/29/16. **DENIED AS A RESULT OF INADEQUATE RESIDENT RESPONSE, OF 39 POSTCARDS THAT WERE SENT OUT, ONLY 11 WERE RETURNED. CRITERIA IS 50% RESPONDENTS WITH A 66% APPROVAL.**
- B. DOT – Request for additional traffic control at the intersection of Smedley Street & 84th Avenue – DENIED as unnecessary. **WE AGREE.**
- C. DOT – Request for repair of street defects on Hoover Avenue between Smedley Street & Queens Blvd. This location is part of active Department of Design Construction (DDC Project QED1001). Resurfacing needs will be re-evaluated by completion of project. **WE AGREE.**
- D. DOT – Request to evaluate operation of traffic signal on 188th Street between GCP & Hillside Avenue (7/17/15). Study indicates that signal at 87th Avenue & 188th Street is out-of-sync and has been adjusted. **DONE.**
- E. DOT – Request for Daylighting at the corner of Hoover Street & Smedley Street (7/17/15). Has been APPROVED for the east curb of Smedley Street near the intersection of Coolidge Avenue Completion by January 2016. **DONE.**
- F. DOT – Request repainting of crosswalks on Utopia Pkwy between GCP & LIE. DENIED as crosswalks are in good condition. **SOME INTERSECTIONS REQUIRE REPAINTING, REQUEST SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AS INDIVIDUAL LOCATION REQUESTS. 69TH AVENUE AND MAIN STREET SHOULD BE REINSPECTED BY DOT.**

- G. DOT – Traffic signals at the intersection of Union Turnpike. & Francis Lewis Blvd. were found to be operating properly. No changes required (7/28/15). **OK.**
- H. DOT – Request for installation of Speed Hump 86th Drive between 209th Street & GCP Service Road (10/18/15). This location does not meet the criteria. **WE AGREE.**
- I. DOT – Request inspection of traffic signal at Francis Lewis Blvd., Hillside Avenue & Foothill Avenue (11/12/15). Signals have been modified to provide better coordination. *SEE IV.E DONE.*
- J. DOT – Request speed hump 172nd Street & 67th Avenue. This location meets criteria and is waiting for CB8 recommendation. **SEE V-J SURVEY OF AFFECTED RESIDENTS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT THIS LOCATION.**
- K. DOT – Request Speed Hump Wexford Terrace between Edgerton Blvd. & Hillside Avenue. Location has been APPROVED, waiting for CB8 recommendation. **SEE V-I EDGERTON BOULEVARD DOES NOT MEET HILLSIDE AVENUE, WEXFORD TERRACE IS AN EASTBOUND ONE WAY FROM HILLSIDE AVENUE TO EDGERTON BOULEVARD. WEXFORD TERRACE PASSES IN FRONT OF A CATHOLIC SCHOOL. THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE IS OPPOSED TO A SPEED HUMP AT THIS LOCATION.**
- L. DOT – CitiBench has been approved for 70-35 150th Street. **IN FRONT OF P.S.165Q NOT DONE YET.**
- M. DOT – Request resurfacing 183rd Street between 69th Avenue & 73rd Avenue (12/15/15). Has been APPROVED for Fiscal Year 2017. **OK.**
- N. DOT – Request for angle parking 199th Street from 73rd Avenue to 67th Avenue (12/9/15). Does not meet criteria for angle parking on a 2-way street. Principal of St. Francis Prep is opposed; Principal of PS4-Q is opposed; board member of CB8 is opposed. **OK.**
- O. DOT – Request resurfacing 182nd Street between 69th Avenue & 73rd Avenue. This location is in good condition and is unnecessary. **POTHoles SHOULD BE REPAIRED.**
- P. DOT – Request installation of speed camera 170th Street & 81st Avenue. This location has been determined to meet criteria and has been placed on list for installation. **THIS IS THE ENTRANCE TO SJU, STUDENTS SPEED WHILE LOOKING FOR PARKING.**
- Q. DOT – Request installation of Speed Hump on Kingston Place between Cedarcroft Road & Hillside Avenue. Meets criteria and is waiting for CB8 input. **DENIED AS UNNECESSARY.**
- R. DOT - Request installation of Speed Hump on 78th Avenue between 141st Street & Main Street. Meets criteria and is waiting for CB8 input. **DENIED AS UNNECESSARY.**
- S. DOT - Request installation of Speed Hump on GCP Service Road between 86th Drive & 208th Street. Meets criteria for 2 speed humps and is waiting for CB8 input. **ADDITIONAL TIME REQUESTED BY TENANT ASSOCIATION 44 OUT OF 100 CARDS HAVE BEEN RETURNED – ALL ARE IN FAVOR. WHEN RESPONSE CRITERIA IS MET DOT WILL BE ADVISED.**
- T. DOT - Request for CitiBench has been approved for the following locations:
 - 1. 68-05 Fresh Meadows Lane **NOT DONE.**
 - 2. 67-01 Union Turnpike **DONE.**
 - 3. 195-02 69th Ave. In front of P.S. 26 **NOT DONE.**
- U. DOT – Request correction of ponding condition in front of 81-40 165th St (1/5/16). Inspection of location 2 days after heavy rain shows no ponding condition. **DOES NOT MEET PONDING CRITERIA OF STANDING WATER 48 HOURS AFTER RAINFALL.**
- V. DOT – Residents on Foothill Avenue request restoration of 198th Street to 2-way operation from Hillside Avenue to Foothill Avenue with parking on one side only. Eighteen residents have requested this change as they must detour on to Hillside Avenue (with 2 traffic lights) in order to gain access to their block. **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**

- W. DDC-HWS2014 Prior Notice DOT Sidewalk Violation-Repair has been completed-locations available at CB#8 Office and was e-mailed to members.
- X. DOT – Request for additional traffic controls at the intersection of 73rd Avenue and 171st Street was approved. It is to be completed by June 30, 2016. **NOT DONE.**

IV. REQUESTS BY Marie Adam-Ovide, CB 8 District Manager, ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS.

- A. DOT speed hump request 68th Drive between 138th Street & 140th Street. Two hundred survey cards sent to affected residents: 32 responses received. Additional month allotted. 9 more postcards received. Trans. Comm. cannot support this request. **CRITERIA IS 50% RESPONDENTS WITH A 66% APPROVAL.**
- B. Request by resident for neighborhood parking permit in Kew Gardens Hills near Lander College. Resident complains students are using street parking. Response to resident states “**street parking for general parking and not for residents of specific neighborhoods**”. Only residents of privately owned streets may limit usage of street parking. In 2011, a State Senator proposed neighborhood paid parking permits, but proposal did not pass.
- C. Request repair and resurface of GCP Westbound Service Road between Utopia Parkway & 168th Street. (see item V-S) **WE AGREE.**
- D. DOT – Proposed Speed Hump 172nd Street between 65th Avenue & 67th Avenue. Survey sent to affected residents on 12/7/15. **WAITING FOR REPOSE TO SURVEY.**
- E. Request correction of street light timing intersection of Francis Lewis Blvd., Hillside Avenue & Foothill Avenue. (11/12/15) **SEE III- I DONE.**

V. NEW REQUESTS

- A. DOT – Request curb cut 150th Street & 72nd Avenue (member Trans. Comm.). **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- B. MTA – Bus shelter Kissena Blvd. & 73rd Avenue Q25/34 (member Trans. Comm.). **APPROVED.**
- C. DOT – Request left turn signal Southbound Kissena Blvd. onto Aguilar Avenue. Cars trying to enter Aaron’s Supermarket parking lot block the intersection. (Member Trans. Comm.) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- D. DOT – Request for pedestrian “safety crossing” at Main Street & 73rd Terrace. (Member Trans. Comm.) **DENIED.**
- E. MTA – Request return bus stop from Main Street & 73rd Terrace to Main Street & 72nd Avenue/Terrace. (Member Trans. Comm.)
- F. DOT – Repair sinking manhole cover at 71-53 Kissena Blvd. (Member Trans. Comm.) **APPROVED FOR REPAIR - COVER MAKES NOISE AS CARS GO OVER THE MANHOLE COVER.**
- G. DOT – Request “slow zone” signage be posted around PS164 on 77th Avenue between Park Drive East & Vleigh Place, and 136th Street (north of 77th Avenue) and 138th Street (south of 77th Avenue). (Member Trans. Comm.) **APPROVED.**
- H. DOT – Request stop sign at intersection of Kendrick Place & Henley Road. (Individual) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- I. DOT – Request for Speed Hump on Wexford Terrace, between Edgerton Blvd. & Hillside Avenue. Requested by Assemblyman David Weprin’s office & was approved by DOT for CB8 input. The location in question is not clear as Edgerton does not meet Hillside Avenue. Clarification is required. *See III.K* **DENIED.**

- J. DOT – Request for Speed Hump 172nd Street between 65th & 67th Avenues has been APPROVED by DOT, waiting for CB8 input. **SEE III-J SURVEY OF AFFECTED RESIDENTS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT THIS LOCATION.**
- K. DOT – Request signage “bike lanes end ahead” on Queens Boulevard over Van Wyck construction. (Individual) *Site must be inspected.* **DOT HAS AGREED TO INSPECT THIS LOCATION AND MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATION AND CORRECTION WHILE CONSTRUCTION IS ONGOING.**
- L. DOT – Request traffic signal on south side of Queens Blvd at the south side of Van Wyck (individual) *Site must be inspected.* **DOT HAS AGREED TO INSPECT THIS LOCATION AND MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATION AND CORRECTION WHILE CONSTRUCTION IS ONGOING.**
- M. DOT – Request “Do Not Enter” sign at Union Turnpike & 185th Street. (Individual) **APPROVED**
- N. DOT – Request “No Standing Except Delivery” sign 175-59 188th Street, from driveway to Union Turnpike. (approx. 3 car lengths).(Individual) **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- O. DOT – Request countdown timer Main Street / 72nd Avenue intersection. It is requested at all intersections. **APPROVED.**
- P. DOT – Request speed hump on Chevy Chase Street between 87th Road & Henley Road. Petition with 11 signatures. **APPROVED FOR SURVEY OF AFFECTED RESIDENTS.**
- Q. DOT – Request, post additional 25MPH speed limit signs on major thoroughfares in Queens. (Member Trans. Comm.) **APPROVED.**
- R. DOT –Requests repair for ponding at the following locations (Member Trans. Comm.):
 - a. Goethals Ave & 166th Street **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
 - b. 81st Avenue / SW corner 166th Street **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
 - c. 81st Avenue & 167th Street **APPROVED FOR DOT STUDY.**
- S. DOT – Request resurfacing westbound service road of GCP from Utopia Parkway to 168th Street. (Member Trans. Comm.) (See item IV-C) **APPROVED.**
- T. DOT –Request resurfacing Eastbound on Union Turnpike from Utopia Parkway to 188th Street. (Member Trans. Comm.) **APPROVED.**
- U. DOT – Request resurfacing Surrey Place south & north from Utopia Parkway to Midland Parkway. (Member Trans. Comm.) **APPROVED.**
- V. DOT – Request Daylighting on 183rd Street & 64th Avenue Northeast corner. (Member Trans. Comm.) **APPROVED.**
- W. DOT- Request conversion of 144th Street from two-way to one-way operation from Hillside Avenue to 85th Road in Briarwood. The request was accompanied by a petition with 56 signatures of affected residents. **ONE SIDE OF THE STREET, “NO PARKING ANY TIME” IS POSTED. THE ISSUE EXISTS DURING SCHOOL ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND DURING SUNDAY RELIGIOUS SERVICES. REFER TO NYPD FOR ENFORCEMENT. TO BE RECONSIDERED IN THE FUTURE IF ENFORCEMENT FAILS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.**

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:50 PM